

REMARKS

The applicants originally submitted claims 1-17 in this application. In a previous response to the April 29, 2005 Office Action, the applicants amended claims 1, 8, 10 and 15. In this response to the current Office Action, the applicants have amended claims 15 and 16. Accordingly, claims 1-17 remain pending in this application.

The Examiner objected to claims 15 and 16 for minor informalities. In response to the objection, the applicants have amended claims 15 and 16 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 15 and 16 no longer are objectionable. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to claims 15 and 16.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pimpinella (U.S. Patent No. 5,694,511). The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the remarks set forth below.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus is disclosed in Pimpinella '511 as reference characters 50 in figure 3 and reference characters 32, 35 in figure 1. However, in Pimpinella '511, the reference characters 50 and 32, 35 do not refer to an intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus, as in the applicants' invention. Rather, reference character 50 refers to an optical switching device, reference character 32 refers to an optical switch and reference character 35 refers to an optical time domain reflectometer (OTDR), which is known as a testing device that produces an optical test pattern signal (see, e.g., col. 2, lines 56-59). The optical switching device 50 and the optical switch 32 are used to connect the OTDR to distribution shelf termination ports to test the integrity of optical fibers that terminate in the distribution shelves. See, e.g., col. 2, lines 52-59.

Pimpinella '511 is concerned with replacing the conventional optical switch 32 and OTDR 35 arrangement in figure 1 with the optical switching device 50 in figure 3, which is affixed to a support plate that mimics a faceplate to a

distribution shelf 14. See, e.g., col. 4, lines 18-21. However, both arrangements are used for connecting an OTDR testing device to various termination ports in a given distribution shelf 14.

As discussed in the applicants' specification, e.g., in paragraph 0033, the applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance (OA&M) apparatus provides administrative, maintenance and other functions for the distribution frame, including connection status of the termination ports (see, e.g., paragraph 0037), as well as current and available jumper connections (see, e.g., paragraph 0034).

Also, see independent claim 1, which recites that the applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus is used for operating the distribution frame and monitoring and indicating cross-connections between the interconnection panels. Also, see independent claim 10, which recites that the applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus has indicators that identify termination ports that are connected, to be connected or that need maintenance.

Nothing in Pimpinella '511 discloses or suggests an apparatus that performs such functions. As discussed hereinabove, Pimpinella '511 discloses an optical switch that connects an OTDR testing device to termination ports within a distribution shelf 14. The testing device provides an optical test pattern for the purpose of determining signal integrity. Testing devices do not monitor the operation of the distribution frame nor indicate cross-connections between interconnection panels.

According, Pimpinella '511 neither discloses nor suggests the applicants' invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 10, or the dependent claims 2-9 and 11-17 that depend from claims 1 and 10, respectively. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Pimpinella '511.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pimpinella (U.S. Patent No. 5,960,130). The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the remarks set forth below.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance apparatus is disclosed in Pimpinella '130 as reference character 50 in figure 3. The applicants respectfully note that much of the specification in Pimpinella '130 is the same as in Pimpinella '511. As discussed hereinabove, Pimpinella '511 neither discloses nor suggest the applicants' invention as disclosed in claims 1-17.

The reference character 50 in figure 3 of Pimpinella '130 is the same optical switch 50 shown in figure 3 of Pimpinella '511. Again, the optical switch 50 is used to connect an OTDR testing device to various termination ports in a given distribution shelf 14. Nothing in Pimpinella '130 discloses or suggests anything that provides administrative and maintenance functions for the distribution frame, including monitoring connection status of the termination ports and current and available jumper connections, as does the applicants' intelligent fiber distribution operations administration and maintenance (OA&M) apparatus.

According, for the same reasons as discussed hereinabove with respect to Pimpinella '511, Pimpinella '130 neither discloses nor suggests the applicants' invention as recited in the claims 1-17. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Pimpinella '130.

The applicants submit that all claims now are in patentable form, and respectfully urge that all the claims be allowed and the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to call the attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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